

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7797
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT LE PLO
SUBJ: FURTHER REACTION TO COMMITTEE OF THIRTEEN'S DECLARATION

1. THE BATTLE LINES HAVE NOW BEEN DRAWN OVER THE COMMITTEE OF THIRTEEN'S DECLARATION. THE LEBANESE FRONT AND CONSERVATIVE SUNNI ESTABLISHMENT APPROVE. LEFTIST MUSLIMS AND THE PLO ARE OPPOSED. THE JUMBLATTI DRUZES ARE CAUGHT BETWEEN THEIR FEAR OF THE PALESTINIANS AND LEFTIST PRESSURES WITHIN THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT. MUCH OF THE CONTROVERSY FOCUSES OVER WHETHER THE DECLARATION IN EFFECT CALLS FOR CANCELLATION OF THE RIYADH AND CAIRO ACCORDS, WITH LEBANESE FORCES IMPLYING IT DOES, AND LEBANESE LEFTISTS AND PLO MAINTAINING IT DOES NOT.

2. BLOC LEADERS AND CAMILLE CHAMOUN APPROVE.

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A. A "SLIGHTLY AMENDED" VERSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THIRTEEN'S APRIL 23 DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WAS SIGNED BY 29 OF THE 31 PARLIAMENTARY BLOC LEADERS, AS WELL AS BY INDEPENDENT DEPUTIES WHO ATTENDED A CONFERENCE AT VILLA MANSOUR ON APRIL 25, ACCORDING TO IKE. EDOUARD HONEIN (MARONITE), SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LEBANESE FRONT, AND NAZIM AL KADRI (SUNNI), CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY JUSTICE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, FAILED TO SIGN.

B. CAMILLE CHAMOUN NOTED APPROVINGLY THAT THE CHANGES IN THE TEXT WERE "ONLY A COUPLE OF LETTERS." ASKED IF THE DECLARATION CALLED FOR AMENDMENT OF THE CAIRO ACCORD, HE REPLIED THAT THE DECLARATION "CALLS FOR CESSATION OF ARMED PALESTINIAN ACTIVITY AND THE ELIMINATION OF ALL ARMED MANIFESTATION IN LEBANON - TAKE IT FROM THERE."

C. THE FULL CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES WILL CONSIDER THE DECLARATION ON APRIL 27.

3. ISLAMIC GROUPING APPROVES.

A. THE CONSERVATIVE, SUNNI ISLAMIC GROUPING MET APRIL 25 AND ISSUED A STATEMENT DESCRIBING THE DECLARATION AS A GOOD STARTING POINT FOR NATIONAL ACCORD. THE GROUPING ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT EFFORTS TO SOLVE LEBANON'S MAJOR PROBLEMS WOULD CONTINUE, "ESPECIALLY THE TERMINATION OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF THE NATION'S TERRITORY."

B. TWO MEMBERS OF THE GROUPING--FORMER PRIME MINISTER RASHID KARAMI AND FORMER MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS MALIK SALAM--DID NOT ATTEND, AND BOTH CONDEMNED THE DECLARATION. KARAMI SAID THAT IF THE PURPOSE OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION WAS TO END THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION, THEN "WE ADVISE THEM TO RECONSIDER, BECAUSE SUCH AN OBJECTIVE IS AN ISRAELI DEMAND, AND THEY DO NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE THE MEANS TO ACHIEVE IT."

4. PLO CRITICIZES.

THE PLO BROKE ITS SILENCE ON APRIL 25 AND CRITICIZED THE COMMITTEE'S DECLARATION (SEPTEL). ACCORDING TO Wafa, THE PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE STRESSING THE NEED FOR CONTINUING TO RELY ON THE CAIRO AND RIYADH ACCORDS AS THE BASIS FOR THE PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON. THE COMMUNIQUE ADDED THAT "THE PALESTINIAN ARMED PRESENCE AND ACTION HAS (SIC) A PAN-ARAB CHARACTER AND ROLE IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT AND IS ABSOLUTELY NOT AN INTERNAL QUESTION CONCERNING THIS OR THAT STATE, AND AS LONG AS THE ZIONIST OCCUPATION OF ARAB AND PALESTINIAN LAND PERSISTS, NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO MAKE A DECISION ON THIS FATEFUL NATIONAL QUESTION."

5. WALID WAFFLES.

A. WALID JUMBLATT ON APRIL 25 MET WITH THE NATIONAL STRUGGLE FRONT PARLIAMENTARY (NSF) BLOC, INCLUDING DRUZE DEPUTY BAHIJ TAKI-AD-DIN, WHO HAD SIGNED THE APRIL 23 DECLARATION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THIRTEEN BUT NOT PARTICIPATED IN THE APRIL 25 MEETING

OF PARLIAMENTARY BLOC LEADERS. AFTERWARDS, WALID ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT "THE DRAFT PLATFORM IS UNDER REVIEW AT PRESENT." HE ALSO EVOKED THE "STRONG TIES WHICH UNITE US WITH MR. BAHIJ TAKI-AD-DIN AND WHICH SPRING FROM THE FACT THAT WE FOLLOW THE SAME POLITICAL LINE." (FYI: NATIONAL MOVEMENT OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT TAKI-AD-DIN DID NOT REPRESENT THE NM ON THE COMMITTEE. END FYI.)

B. THE NSF ISSUED A SEPARATE COMMUNIQUE, WHICH READ:

--"DEPUTY BAHIJ TAKI-AD-DIN TOOK PART IN THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE OF THIRTEEN AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL STRUGGLE FRONT.

--"THE PROPOSED PLATFORM IS ONLY A DRAFT WHICH MUST STILL BE SUB-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MITTED TO THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES FOR RATIFICATION.

--"THE NSF WILL ADOPT WITHIN AN APPROPRIATE TIME A POSITION ON THE DRAFT IN QUESTION. . . ."

DECONTROL JUNE 30, 1978.
PARKER

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